

THIRTY-SIXTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE DIRECTORS

OF THE

Central American Education Society,

PRESENTED AT THE

ANNUAL MEETING,

NEW-YORK, MAY 11, 1854.

New-York:

PRINTED BY JOHN A. GRAY, No. 97 CLIFF, COR. FRANKFORT ST.

1854.

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ANNUAL MEETING.

THE Central American Education Society met at their office, No. 44 Bible House, Astor Place, New-York, on Thursday, the 11th of May, A. D. 1854, at 4 o'clock P. M.

In the absence of the President,

The Rev. John J. Owen, D.D., was called to the chair.

The meeting was opened with prayer by the Rev. J. Parsons Hovey.

The minutes of the last annual meeting were read and approved.

The Report of the Treasurer was read, and referred to an Auditing Committee, consisting of Messrs. Anson G. Phelps and Joseph B. Sheffield.

The Annual Report of the Board of Directors was read by the Corresponding Secretary :

And it was

Resolved, That the Annual Report, just read, be adopted, and printed under the direction of the Executive Committee.

The following officers were chosen for the ensuing year :

President.

HON. JOSEPH C. HORNBLOWER.

Vice Presidents.

REV. LYMAN BEECHER, D.D.,

" ELIPHALET NOTT, D.D.,

" SAMUEL FISHER, D.D.,

" SAMUEL H. COX, D.D.,

" WILLIAM PATTON, D.D.,

" THOMAS H. SKINNER, D.D.,

" MATTHEW BROWN, D.D.,

" DIRCK C. LANSING, D.D.,

" S. S. SCHMUCKER, D.D.,

" N. S. S. BEMAN, D.D., LL.D.,

" EDWARD ROBINSON, D.D., LL.D.,

" ICHABOD S. SPENCER, D.D.,

REV. WILLIAM ADAMS, D.D.,

" GIDEON N. JUDD, D.D.,

" JOEL PARKER, D.D.,

" GEORGE B. CHEEVER, D.D.,

" GEORGE W. WOOD,

ISRAEL CRANE, Esq.,

HENRY DWIGHT, Esq.,

PELATIAH PERIT, Esq.,

WILLIAM W. CHESTER, Esq.,

CALEB O. HALSTED, Esq.,

CHRISTOPHER R. ROBERT, Esq.,

JAMES BOORMAN, Esq.

Corresponding Secretary, . REV. JOHN N. LEWIS, 44 Bible House, Astor Place.
Recording Secretary, . . J. B. SHEFFIELD, Esq., 63 and 65 Beekman street.
Treasurer, ... WILLIAM A. BOOTH, Esq., 95 Front street.

Directors.

REV. ANSEL D. EDDY, D.D.,	REV. THOMAS H. SKINNER, Jr.,
" SAMUEL D. BURCHARD, D.D.,	" GEORGE THACHER,
" SAMUEL T. SPEAR, D.D.,	" J. FEW SMITH,
" ALFRED E. CAMPBELL, D.D.,	FISHER HOWE, Esq.,
" JOHN J. OWEN, D.D.,	ANSON G. PHELPS, Esq.,
" ASA D. SMITH, D.D.,	THOMAS DENNY, Esq.,
" JAMES W. McLANE, D.D.,	CHARLES STARR, Esq.,
" JONATHAN F. STEARNS, D.D.,	HENRY N. BEERS, Esq.,
" GEORGE L. PRENTISS,	O. E. WOOD, Esq.,
" A. AUGUSTUS WOOD,	ALFRED EDWARDS, Esq.,
" DAVID B. COE,	THOMAS BOND, Esq.,
" J. PARSONS HOVEY,	WILLIAM P. COOK, Esq.

The following resolution was adopted :

Resolved, That a Sermon adapted to promote the interests of the cause of Education for the Christian Ministry be preached on the evening of the Sabbath preceding the "Anniversary week," and that it be referred to the Board of Directors to make all necessary arrangements to carry out the purpose of this resolution.

After which the Society adjourned.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors, holden immediately after the adjournment of the Society, the following Standing Committees were appointed for the ensuing year :

Executive Committee.

WILLIAM A. BOOTH, Esq., <i>Chairman</i> ,	ANSON G. PHELPS, Esq.,
REV. THOMAS H. SKINNER, Jr.,	JOSEPH B. SHEFFIELD, Esq.,
" J. PARSONS HOVEY,	CHARLES STARR, Esq., and
The CORRESPONDING SECRETARY.	

Examining Committee.

REV. ASA D. SMITH, D.D.,	REV. ALFRED E. CAMPBELL, D.D.,
REV. ANSEL D. EDDY, D.D.	

R E P O R T .

THE subject of the education of poor and pious youth for the Ministry of the Gospel has been discussed so often and so well, that we have but little hope that our story can be made inviting to those who "spend their time in nothing else but either to tell or to hear some new thing." But to such as pray and "wait for the consolation of Israel"; who are willing to review with us the dealings of God's providence with the important interest committed to our trust; whose hearts can respond to the facts and arguments which exhibit the claims of this branch of benevolent enterprise, albeit they have often been spread before them—to such the Directors of the CENTRAL AMERICAN EDUCATION SOCIETY wish to bring a truthful plea, and to bespeak for it a candid hearing.

If we consult the earlier history of this cause, we behold it attracting powerfully the sympathy and the benevolent action of the friends of the Redeemer. It stood before the world on an eminence from which it was seen afar, and gathered under its shadow a great company of youthful aspirants for the ministry. Through the blessing of God upon the exertions of its friends, faithful ministers of the Gospel and devoted missionaries of the Cross in no inconsiderable numbers, have been given to the Church, who, but for the fostering care of our Society, would have been compelled to turn aside from their hearts' desire, and to devote to secular pursuits the energies which they longed to expend in the glorious work of proclaiming the message of God's rich grace to ruined men.

Year after year the annual gathering of the friends of the Education Cause was a season of glad and grateful rejoicing. Year after year the reports of the Directors told of increasing,

still increasing prosperity. The number of the candidates under patronage was greatly augmented, and the pecuniary resources of the Society were in a healthful state.

But this condition of things was not permitted to continue uninterrupted by sad reverses. As the friends of the cause had been elated by its prosperity, so were they to be tried by its adversity. A protracted season of depression has prevailed; and the great interest of educating the youth of our churches for the work of the ministry has been reduced so low, that many feared, and some have boldly asserted, that there was no hope of again arousing the hearts of God's people to sympathy and exertion in this cause.

During this season of depression, the relations existing between this Society and those allied with it have, to a certain degree, become involved in practical disorder and confusion, notwithstanding they are clearly defined in the agreements and rules to which all parties had given their free consent. This fact, although greatly to be regretted, ought not to be regarded as implying blame-worthiness in any. Perhaps it is hardly to be wondered at, when we reflect upon the gloomy circumstances, in which all were involved alike, that the several Societies, being thrown very much upon their individual resources, should have sought rather to maintain each its own existence, with such success as it might be able to command, than to attempt a task apparently of so difficult achievement, as that of keeping in vigorous action, the system of mutual coöperation, whose working, in happier times, had been so harmonious and so successful.

But this separate action has not been followed by results which justify its continuance. The interests of the cause have suffered, and the efforts that have been made have been so isolated as to lead many, not familiar with the details of our operations, to suppose that much less has been accomplished than has really been the case.

The feeling has for some time been gathering strength in the minds of the members of the Board, that some decided effort must be made to bring about a better understanding of the mutual relations subsisting between the several related Societies, as a means to the more efficient and energetic action of the whole.

Under this impression, and in view of the increasing dearth

of ministers, and of the exigencies of the cause in which these Societies are engaged, at the last quarterly meeting of the Board of Directors, it was unanimously resolved to call a Convention, to be holden in this city, to which the Boards of the several associated Societies should be requested to commission delegates.

The Convention met in this place during the last month. Of its results, it is, of course, too early to speak with confidence. Yet it may not be improper to observe, that the spirit manifested by the delegates assembled, and the character of the discussions—conducted in the most liberal manner—impressed every one who was present, as “a token for good.”

It is freely acknowledged that all was not accomplished that was to be desired. Providential circumstances were interposed which changed, in some respects, the course of the deliberations that had been proposed. Nevertheless, we will thank God for whatever of good for the cause may have been effected, and will look with confidence for the results which his gracious Providence may educe from the fraternal interchange of opinion and sentiment that prevailed in the Convention.

RELATIONS TO THE AMERICAN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

The relations which this Society sustains to the American Education Society, at Boston, were definitively arranged in the year 1831. Prior to that time, we occupied the position of an auxiliary, with powers very much circumscribed, and possessing no independent executive authority. In that year, an arrangement was effected, in virtue of which the powers and duties of this Society were greatly enlarged.

The reasons for this change, and its propriety, are obvious. The field of exertion which naturally spread itself before a Society, having its centre of operations in this city, was too wide, and the interests involved were too weighty, to be managed by an organization whose executive head was so far removed; especially as that executive was fully occupied with the interests of the cause within the immediate sphere of its own operations.

By this change our Society, then denominated “the Presbyterian Education Society,” became “an associate or *coördinate*

institution" with the American Education Society, and to it "were committed the entire concerns" of that Society "out of New-England."

The arrangement of 1831 has never been abrogated. During the season of depression, to which we have already referred, these relations have not been sustained in all their full and beneficent activity. But we hope the time is at hand, if we may not say that it has already come, when the spirit and principles of our solemn compact, once more observed in all their essential features, shall bind together in one these Societies so intimately associated, and thus prepare the way for a career of usefulness brighter and more cheering than ever before.

STATE OF THE TREASURY.

The amount of the balance in the hands of the Treasurer, as reported by him at the last Annual Meeting of the Society, was \$373.27.

During the year now under review, there have been received,

From Collections in Churches and Individual Donations,	\$4,090 98
" Loans returned,	284 50
" Legacies,	4,451 25

Making a total of receipts, from all sources, of	\$8,826 73
Which, with the amount in the Treasury at the beginning of the year,	373 27

Presents, as the whole amount which has been in the Treasury during the year ending April 30th,	\$9,200 00
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The Expenditures during the same period, have been,

Amount paid to Beneficiaries,	\$4,010 00
Salary of the Corresponding Secretary, and incidental expenses, including office rent, etc. etc.	1,047 07

Making the total of the disbursements from the Treasury,	\$5,057 07
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There remain, therefore, in the hands of the Treasurer, at the beginning of the new fiscal year, May 1st, 1854, \$4,142.93.

BENEFICIARIES.

The whole number of the candidates for the ministry who have received assistance from the funds of this Society, during the year, is *Seventy-seven*.

Of this number, *ten*, having completed their course of preparatory studies shortly after the last annual meeting of the Society, have been engaged in the active duties of the ministry during the greater portion of the year. To this remark it may be necessary to make one or two exceptions.

Eight more of these beneficiaries are, during the present month, about to take their departure from the Theological Seminary, having arrived at the close of the prescribed term of instruction. The most, if not all, of these have been already licensed to preach the Gospel. Let them bear with them the assurance of the prayers of the Directors and patrons of this Society, that their ministry may be faithful, and may be crowned by the Master with signal success!

NUMBER UNDER PATRONAGE, MAY 1st, 1854.

There are now under the patronage of the Society *fifty-three* candidates for the sacred office. They are connected with various institutions of learning, as follows:

With the New-York Union Theological Seminary,		36
“ Hamilton College,		15
“ Union College,		1
“ New-York Central College,		1
		53

In addition to the above, there are *five* of our beneficiaries who are not at present receiving assistance from our Treasury. Two of these have been interrupted in their course by ill health. Two have temporarily suspended their studies, expecting to resume them after a short interval. These four, we hope, will all be able to return to the institutions with which they are connected, at the commencement of the next academical year. The fifth, while continuing to pursue his studies without interruption, has obtained a situation, the income of which enables him to provide for his present support without requiring an appropriation from our funds. All these five young men still

remain in regular standing as beneficiaries, and have each drawn one or more quarterly appropriations during the year.

APPROPRIATIONS.

It is undoubtedly true that, within certain limits, the more a young man is thrown upon his own resources, while in a course of preparation for the self-denying labors of the Gospel ministry, the better will he be prepared to "endure hardness as a good soldier of Jesus Christ," after he shall have entered upon his work.

But the Board of Directors are by no means prepared to admit, as the conclusion to which this truth should conduct us, that it is for the future usefulness of the candidate, or for the glory of God, that the indigent youth—who, from love to his blessed Redeemer and to the souls of his fellow-sinners, has consecrated his life, his powers, his all, to the holy work of preaching the Gospel—is to be left to struggle with the difficulties and impediments which poverty has thrown in his way, uncheered by the sympathy of the friends of Zion, and unaided by the funds which God has so abundantly bestowed upon the churches.

It has, however, been at no time the intention of this Society, nor of any kindred institution of which we have knowledge, to provide for the student a full support. It has rather been their design to aid him to educate himself, than to relieve him of all responsibility in the matter. They have aimed to encourage him in the effort, by his own exertions, and by the assistance of his immediate friends, to meet the necessary expenses attendant upon a thorough course of study, protracted, as it needs must be, through a series of years.

The manner in which this encouragement has been furnished is by pecuniary appropriations, recurring at stated seasons, and with regular intervals. This has been agreed upon, on all hands, as at once the most available and the most efficient mode in which our assistance can be rendered. It has also been regarded as the dictate of sound wisdom, that "the amount appropriated to young men under patronage shall be the least with which they can be carried forward, consistently with health and a thorough education, after making suitable efforts to assist themselves, and receiving the aid of other public funds and of friends."

Under this general rule, the annual amount of the appropriations to each beneficiary has varied, according to the circumstances of the Society and the exigencies of the times. For several years past the sum has been fixed at *eighty dollars*, payable in quarterly appropriations of twenty dollars each. This amount, although a sufficient sum in 1837, in which year the scale was revised, does not bear the same proportion to the expenses which are unavoidable in pursuing a course of study preparatory to the ministry, at the present time, that it did when it was adopted. The necessary expenses of living have greatly increased; and the Board have felt constrained to entertain the question of increasing the rate of our appropriations. The subject has been seriously considered during the greater part of the past year.

At the quarterly meeting of the Directors, in March last, it was at length determined to raise the scale of appropriation, so that the young men under our patronage, in the Collegiate and Theological stages of their course, shall receive the annual amount of *one hundred dollars*, in equal quarterly instalments. This new rate of appropriation is to go into effect at the next September quarter, at which time the academical year commences in most of the institutions with which our beneficiaries are connected.

The change has been effected with entire and cordial unanimity on the part of the Board of Directors, and it is confidently believed that it will be approved by every contributor to our funds. Already we have satisfactory evidence that it is hailed as a timely and welcome relief by the young men who look to us for assistance. And we cannot but hope that the churches will respond cheerfully to our appeals to their Christian sympathy and benevolence, that so the hopes of the deserving and devoted class of youth to whom our aid is rendered may not be disappointed.

REVIVING INTEREST.

It is with heartfelt satisfaction that the Board bear testimony to the revival of interest in the great cause for which they are laboring. In various ways, and from almost every section of the territory within which our Society operates, the evidence has reached us, that the friends of the blessed Redeemer are beginning to take a new and warmer interest in the efforts we are making to augment the number of devoted and well-

trained ministers of the Gospel. We gratefully acknowledge "the good hand of our God upon us," to which it is none the less our joy, because it is our duty also, to ascribe it that we are thus cheered in our most important work.

The night has been long and gloomy. But, standing upon our watch-tower, we discover those indications of approaching light, which, though feeble at first, and uncertain, are yet growing stronger and more clearly defined, and embolden us to speak the word of encouragement—"The morning cometh."

We must not be understood to intimate that the churches are yet fully awake to the importance, nay, the vital necessity of our efforts. Much, very much of painful labor is yet to be expended before a result so happy, and so earnestly to be desired, shall be attained. Still, it is an encouraging circumstance that the apathy is beginning to be disturbed, which has been so widely prevalent, and which could not but be so disheartening to those to whom the interests of the Society have been intrusted. It is an encouraging circumstance that here and there over our whole field, the churches are beginning to listen to our appeals, and individual Christians to exhibit a spirit of inquiry on the subject, the result of which we are persuaded must be salutary upon themselves, and of happy augury for the cause.

Still, we must not lose sight of the truth so well expressed in the Report of the Board of Directors for 1852, namely:

"The *resuscitation* of a cause so essential to the well-being of the Church, and to the salvation of the world, is a slow and difficult work. The *recovery* of lost ground always demands more exertion than the original conquest of the field required. Preëminently is this true in the spiritual world. If the original possession of the field was gained by slow degrees, and with much exertion, then, unless there is a special interposition of the Holy Spirit, its re-conquest will be gradual, and attended with many untoward and discouraging events.

"When the conscience of the Church slumbers over so vast and momentous an interest as this, we may be certain that such slumber is a lethargy. No ordinary influences will awaken it. Repeated, earnest, and prayerful must be the efforts that will accomplish this result. Such efforts are being put forth, and we are not discouraged in making them. There are signs of a reviving of interest on this subject, and with God's

blessing we will persevere. In this determination we are supported by the deep conviction that the Head of the Church is on our side."

WANT OF MINISTERS.

The demand which the providence of God is making upon the Churches, and upon this Society, as the organ of the churches for the work committed to it, was never more imperative than at this very day. If we would heed the voice of the Master—if we would be found faithful to the interests of his kingdom and cause, we must be importunate in prayer to "the Lord of the harvest, that he will send forth laborers into his harvest."

The great want of the Church at the present day, is not pecuniary resources, for of these she is full, even to repletion. It is not a willingness to distribute, although, in instances far too numerous, the sin of covetousness may hold its paralyzing domination over those who profess to be the people of God; yet it is by no means true that the churches of our blessed Redeemer are backward in dispensing God's bounty, when appropriately instructed in regard to the necessities of any interest which worthily appeals to their Christian benevolence. The great want of the Church is not of organizations through which to operate upon the darkness, and stupidity, and sin of a world lying in wickedness. But it is men—true-hearted, honest, learned, devoted, holy ministers of the everlasting Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. **THIS IS THE GREAT WANT OF THE CHURCH.** From every portion of our own land: on the Atlantic slope; in the Mississippi valley; on the golden shores of the far off Pacific;—north and south, east and west—from every section of the United States, the assurance meets us of the dearth of ministers.

Everywhere throughout the whole earth, the heathen nations are still sitting in the region and shadow of death for want of faithful and self-denying missionaries to enter the wastes and proclaim salvation to the lost. China needs missionaries. India needs them. Africa needs them. South America needs them. The whole world is opening before the Church of God, and wherever she will she may enter in and take possession in the name of Jesus Christ, the rightful Lord of heaven and of earth.

But to effect this conquest of the nations, the Church has

need of a *replenished ministry*. Our Boards of Foreign and Domestic Missions are oppressed by the sense they have of the want of suitable ministers of the Gospel. The few already in the service in foreign lands are utterly incapable of accomplishing the mighty work that is to be done. They are over-burdened with labors. They are often brought to the very borders of discouragement, for want of fellow-laborers. And, distressed with the sight of the desolations around them, they cry out for help. They cry ;—but how few are they who heed their cry ! They cry ;—and their piteous importunities, coming up from the four quarters of the earth, mingle with the voice of similar lamentations ascending from the destitute places of our own land. And the burden of this united wail is ever the same: the want of laborers to gather in the harvest which is whitening everywhere, and perishing from neglect.

WANT OF CANDIDATES.

The consideration of the want of ministers leads us to another topic, which the Board of Directors feel to be, in all its relations, one of the most affecting subjects of thought to every friend of Zion—nay, to every lover of his race. We refer to the small number of candidates for the blessed, though self-denying, profession of the ministry. Not only is there an appalling scarcity of pious, intelligent, and well-educated ministers, but for many years past, the very small number of our youth who devote themselves to the sacred office has been no less alarming. During the season, continuing for several years, when revivals of religion so extensively pervaded the Churches of this land, and for some years subsequently, the number of the candidates for the ministry was greatly increased. And had a similar devotement of themselves to this blessed work continued to be exhibited by our youth, much might have been accomplished towards supplying the necessities of our own and foreign countries. But a change, a sad and mournful change, has passed upon the Church. For the last fifteen years and more, the blessed influences of the Holy Ghost have been in a great measure withheld from the churches. Revivals have been far more rarely enjoyed, and less extensive in their effects. And while we have infinite reason to bless and adore the God of our salvation, that his renewing grace has not been utterly withdrawn, yet the fact remains, that very few of our youth

have been found to consecrate themselves to the work of preaching the Gospel. While our colleges are filled with young men of talents and of promise, how small a portion of them are numbered among the followers of the Lamb! Even in those regions of our country in which we have reason to expect the pious students to bear the largest ratio to the whole number, we find that but one third are recorded as professors of religion. And of those who profess to be Christians, not more than one half are preparing for the Gospel ministry. If, then, this is the state of the case in New-England, what must be the condition, in this respect, of the other sections of the republic?

It is not, therefore, the fault of the Education Societies, as some have vainly urged, that the number of candidates for the ministry has been so small. This Society has rendered aid to all the applicants for its assistance, whose credentials and standing were in accordance with the regulations by which beneficiaries are received under our patronage.

The deficiency is rather to be accounted for by the fact that so comparatively small a portion of our youth have become the subjects of God's renewing grace, within the period under consideration; and by the other fact, that of those of our youth who are professedly pious, scarcely a moiety are found to recognize and obey the voice which utters the command, "Son, go work in my vineyard!"

This is an evil over which the Church of God is called to mourn. It is an evil which affects not any particular denomination of Christians more than others. There is a want of candidates for the ministry in every branch of the Evangelical sisterhood of Churches. And until "the Spirit is poured upon us from on high," we perceive but little reason to hope for such an increase in the number of suitable candidates for the ministry, as the wants of the Church and of the world demand.

Still it is believed that a serious effort on the part of the ministers and churches, upon the field of this Society's operations, would result in the discovery of a very considerable number of young men of piety and talents, who ought, without delay, to disengage themselves from the secular pursuits in which they are employed, and to set their hearts and their faces towards the pulpit. We will advance one step further, and express the opinion that many such youth might be found, who, in their diffidence and self-distrust, are only waiting until

the hand of pastoral and Christian fidelity shall be extended to lead them forth from their present employments, and to introduce them to those new pursuits through which they must pass on their way to the sacred office. If these opinions are true, how solemn the responsibility which rests on all who love the prosperity of Zion. Let then every pastor, let every Christian, feel the constraining influence of the motives which urge him to seek out the youth of piety and of promise, who ought to consecrate themselves to the holy duties of the ministry:—let all Christian hearts unite in fervent, persevering, importunate prayer, for the descent of the Holy Spirit into the midst of the churches, with his converting and sanctifying influences; and very soon may we rejoice to know that candidates, in constantly increasing numbers, are devoting themselves to the service of Christ and of his Church.

CONCLUSION.

The Board of Directors, in concluding their report, would express their firm and increasing conviction, of not only the utility, but the absolute necessity, of the operations of this Society. We hear the voice of God's providence bidding us to go forward. Every indication of duty is in the one direction—forward. It doubtless will be our lot to perform much toilsome labor, before we see the precious interest committed to us occupying the advanced position in the affections of God's people, to which we believe it to be entitled, by reason of its vital connection with all the great movements of Christian benevolence. It doubtless will be our lot to meet many obstacles to our progress, for the great enemy of the Redeemer's kingdom will not be an indifferent spectator of our efforts. We may suffer from the opposition of brethren who see not things as we do. We may be grieved by the want of interest in the cause, exhibited by those to whom we look for sympathy and aid. Our plans may be treated with coldness. Our wisdom may be doubted. Our motives may be called in question. But in the confidence we feel that our cause is the cause of God, and of his own appointed and ordained instrumentality for the conversion of the world, we exhort the friends of Christ, as we exhort ourselves, to gird up our loins anew, and to address ourselves to the labors and trials of another year, in humble dependence upon the power and grace of God, to crown our labors with success.

May 1st, 1854.

JOHN N. LEWIS,
Corresponding Secretary.

ACCOUNT OF MONIES RECEIVED.

17

1853.

May 10.	By Balance in hands of Treasurer	\$373 27
" 18.	" W. W. Cumberland, Beneficiary, for his note refunded, with interest	28 50
June 4.	" Cash from A. R. Riggs	20 00
" 9.	" " Collection in Carmine-street Church	35 00
" 21.	" " " Spring-street Church Education Society	38 68
" 25.	" " " Allen-st. Presbyterian Church	80 47
" "	" " " Cen. Presb. Church, Broome st.	72 08
" "	" " from Rev. J. Spaulding	10 00 — 162 55
Aug. 5.	" " from Mr. Phelps	10 00
Sept. 9.	" " from P. M. Bartlett, Beneficiary, for his seven notes, each \$20, refunded	140 00
" "	Discount	84 00 — 56 00
" 17.	" Cash Collection Spencertown Presbyterian Church	15 85
" 28.	" " Subscription at Montrose, Pa.	30 92
" "	" " Donation from Rev. J. N. Lewis	20 00 — 50 92
" 28.	" " Collection in 14th-street Presbyterian Church	833 85
" 28.	" " from A. R. Riggs	20 00
Dec. 16.	" " from J. G. Clark, executor of Mrs. C. Pratt, to consti- tute her son, G. F. Pratt, a life-member	40 00

1854.

Jan. 6.	" Cash from members of 14th-street Presbyterian Church.	825 00
" 18.	" " from J. N. Tuttle and Mr. Nichols, executors of Miss Susan Baldwin, of Newark, N. J., in full for Legacy	356 25
" 18.	" Cash Collection in 3d Presbyterian Church, Brooklyn	23 32
" 18.	" " " Central Church, New-York	98 00
" 18.	" " " Spring-st. Church Ed. Society	115 53
" 18.	" " Donation from Rev. Isaac Lewis, D.D.	13 00 — 128 53
Feb. 24.	" " from S. H. Stone, executor of estate of Peter Chandler, deceased, of Mexico, N.Y. on account of Legacy	1000 00
" "	Less discount on draft	5 00 — 995 00
Mar. 13.	" Cash from C. H. Russell, executor of the estate of Samuel S. Howland, of N.Y., in full for Legacy	2500 00
" 20.	" Cash Collection in West Presbyterian Church	118 50
April 10.	" " from A. R. Riggs, of Dover, N. J.	60 00
" 13.	" " from S. H. Stone, executor of the late Peter Chand- ler, of Mexico, on account of Legacy	600 00
" 14.	" Cash Collection in Mercer-street Church	779 28
" "	" " A. G. Phelps, Esq., on account of \$1000	450 00 — 1229 28
" 6.	" " Donation from E. Woolsey, Astoria, L. I.	100 00
" 8.	" " Donation from Col. G. Loomis, Texas	23 00
" 10.	" " Collection in Presbyterian Church, in Poughkeepsie. Wm. Wilkinson, \$5; Mr. Sterling, \$5; Mr. Boyd, \$5; Dr. Andrus, \$1; Mr. Carpenter, \$2; Mr. S. Chichester, \$5; Rev. Thomas S. Wickes, \$30; a Friend, \$2; Mr. J. Bartlett, \$3; Mrs. Thomas S. Wickes, \$10; Mr. Trowbridge, \$3; Mr. W. Sedg- wick, \$1; Mr. H. L. Young, \$5.	77 00
" 13.	" Cash Collection in North Congregational Church, New Hartford, Conn.	9 00
" 20.	" Cash a Friend in Smithfield, Pa.	5 00
" 22.	" " Collection in Presbyterian Church, Bloomfield, N. J.	87 50
" 25.	" " E. M. Morgan, Beneficiary, Loans returned, by Rev. I. N. Tarbox	205 00
" 26.	" Cash Collection in Presbyterian Church, Honesdale, Pa.	80 00

SUMMARY OF RECEIPTS.

	\$9200 00
Collections in Churches and Individual Donations	\$4090 98
Loans Returned	284 50
Legacies	4451 25
In the hands of the Treasurer, May 10, 1853	373 27

1853.			
June.		To Cash paid March and June Appropriations to 32 Beneficiaries	\$675 00
Aug. 5.		To Cash paid Rev. A. D. Eddy, D.D., expenses to Auburn	13 25
" 25.	"	" " Wright & Bailey, carpets, etc.	30 38
Sept. 14.	"	" " Ackerman & Miller, signs, etc.	31 50
" 28.	"	" " Rev. J. N. Lewis, travelling expenses, and incidental expenses of office	32 86
Oct. 5.	"	Cash paid Appropriations for two Beneficiaries in the New-York University	40 00
Nov. 7.	"	Cash paid Appropriations for 15 Beneficiaries in Hamilton College	365 00
" 7.	"	Cash paid Appropriations for 27 Beneficiaries in the Union Theological Seminary	540 00
" 7.	"	Cash paid Society for the Promotion of Collegiate and Theological Education at the West, balance due them	48 51
" 7.	"	Cash paid Rev. J. N. Lewis, for Salary to Nov. 1st, as Corresponding Secretary	250 00
	"	Rent of Office	25 00
" 18.	"	Cash paid Cartage on Desks, etc.	275 00
			1 75
1854.			
Jan. 13.	"	" " Appropriations to 36 Beneficiaries in the Union Theological Seminary	820 00
" 14.	"	Cash paid Appropriation to Beneficiary in Union College	20 00
" 18.	"	" " Two Appropriations to J. B. Reeve, Beneficiary in the New-York Central College	40 00
" 23.	"	Cash paid Appropriations to 15 Beneficiaries in Hamilton College	365 00
Feb. 1.	"	Cash paid Rev. J. N. Lewis, Salary as Corresponding Secretary, one quarter to date	250 00
" 1.	"	Cash paid Rent of Office	25 00
	"	Travelling and incidental expenses at the Office, etc.	30 72
Mar. 30.	"	Cash paid Rev. Dr. Stearns' bill travelling expenses to Auburn	305 72
			15 00
April 6.	"	Cash paid Appropriation to Beneficiary in Union College	20 00
" 10.	"	Cash paid Appropriation to Beneficiary in Central Col.	20 00
" 10.	"	Cash paid Appropriations to 36 Beneficiaries in Union Theological Seminary	740 00
" 29.	"	Cash paid Rev. J. N. Lewis, one quarter's salary, as Corresponding Secretary	250 00
" 29.	"	Cash paid Rent of Office	25 00
	"	Travelling and incidental expenses at the Office, etc.	18 10
May 1.	"	Cash paid Appropriations to 15 Beneficiaries in Hamilton College	293 10
			365 00
			\$5057 07
		Balance	\$4142 93

SUMMARY OF DISBURSEMENTS.

Paid Beneficiaries	\$4010 00
" Travelling Expenses	28 25
" Rent of Office	75 00
" Office Expenses	143 56
" All other Expenses	246 81
	800 26
	\$5057 07

WILLIAM A. BOOTH, *Treasurer.*

CONSTITUTION
OF THE
CENTRAL AMERICAN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

ART. I. This Society shall be known by the name of *The Central American Education Society*.

ART. II. The object of the Society shall be to educate young men for the ministry, upon the principles and in conformity with the rules of the American Education Society, as existing at the time of adopting this Constitution, or as they may hereafter be determined, with the concurrence of the executive authority of this Society.

ART. III. Every person paying any sum annually shall be a member of this Society ; every person paying forty dollars at one time shall be a member for life ; and every person paying one hundred dollars shall be a director for life.

ART. IV. The officers of this Society shall consist of a President, Vice President, Secretaries, Treasurer, and such other officers as may be necessary. The business of this Society shall be conducted by a Board of Directors, which, exclusive of their officers, shall consist of twenty-four members, who shall be elected annually. They may fill their vacancies, appoint Executive Committees, and do every thing not contrary to this Constitution which they may deem expedient. Five shall constitute a quorum. The officers of the Society shall also be officers of the Board.

ART. V. The Treasurer shall give bonds in a reasonable sum, to be determined by the Directors, for the faithful discharge of his duties.

ART. VI. The annual meeting of the Society shall be held in the city of New-York, on the second Thursday in May. Special meetings may be called by the Directors.

ART. VII. Members of auxilliary and branch Societies are entitled to vote in all meetings of the Society.

ART. VIII. Alterations in this Constitution may be made by a vote of two thirds of the members present at an annual meeting, provided such alterations shall have been submitted to the Society in writing at a previous meeting or session.

EXTRACTS FROM THE RULES
OF THE
CENTRAL AMERICAN EDUCATION SOCIETY.

OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

THE Board meet quarterly, for the transaction of business, on the *last Tuesday of March, June, September, and December*. Special meetings may be called by the Secretary, at the written request of the Directors.

OF EXAMINING COMMITTEES.

When a candidate for patronage applies for examination, it shall be the duty of the Examining Committee, to whom the application is made, to institute a personal and faithful inquiry respecting his testimonials, his studies, his religious character, his motives for seeking an education for the Christian ministry, and his willingness to conform to the rules of the American Education Society. If, after serious and full examination, the Committee shall be satisfied that the applicant possesses the character and qualifications required of Beneficiaries by the constitution and rules of the Society, it shall be their duty to recommend him for patronage. In their recommendation the Committee shall state, very particularly, *the name, age, residence, place of education, church connection*, and other important facts connected with the history or character of the applicant, together with an account of the testimonials furnished, and the *names of the persons* by whom they were furnished.

It shall be the duty of the several Examining Committees to endeavor to impress the minds of those who apply for patronage with a deep sense of the momentous and solemn nature of their undertaking; to explain to them the principles upon which appropriations are made by this Society; and to apprise them of the necessity which the rules of the Society lay upon them, of making vigorous efforts to sustain themselves. It is recommended that every examination of candidates be introduced and closed with prayer.

Certificates and testimonials, furnished to any Examining Committee, shall be regarded as the property of the Board of Directors, and shall be carefully preserved till called for by them or their lawful agent; except that in case an applicant shall not be received on trial, his papers may, if he requests it, be returned to him.

OF BENEFICIARIES.

No person shall be considered a candidate for assistance, who has not been a member, in good standing, of some Christian Church at least one year, and who has not pursued classical studies two years, and who has not attained to fourteen years of age.

No person shall be patronized who does not furnish satisfactory evidence of promising talents, decided piety, and who is not in the way of obtaining a *thorough* classical and theological education; that is, either a member of some regularly constituted college, where a thorough classical course is pursued, or engaged in theological studies with the design of taking a regular three-years' course.

When a young man wishes to apply for patronage, he must pursue the following steps. *First*: He must obtain unequivocal testimonials from three or more serious and respectable persons, best acquainted with him and his circumstances—for example, his minister, instructor, a magistrate, or some other principal man in the vicinity—stating his age, place of residence, indigence, moral and religious character, including his church connection, talents, previous education, and serious desire to devote his life to the Christian ministry. These testimonials should be *sealed* papers, that the writers of them may speak freely concerning the character of the applicants. *Secondly*: Having obtained these testimonials, the applicant must present his request for *examination and recommendation* to some Examining Committee in his neighborhood, or within the portion of the country to which he belongs. If no such Committee is known to have been appointed, the applicant or his friends may write for information to the Secretary of the Society; or, if he resides within the limits of a Branch Society, to the Secretary of that branch.

Whenever a young man has taken the above course, and been examined and recommended by an authorized Committee to the Board of Directors, he may be *admitted on trial*, at the discretion of the Board, for a period of three months.

Every young man shall renew his application, and make his returns to the Board *quarterly* in season for each quarterly meeting, unless for special reasons a longer period shall have been granted by the Board; and he shall do the same with scrupulous exactness according to the schedule, which shall be regularly and punctually returned by all under

the patronage of the Society or of its branches, in every stage of their education.

The following certificate must be made quarterly by some of the instructors :

“I certify that I have examined the within [or above] accounts, and that I believe the same to be correct; and also that the person [or persons] herein named sustains [or sustain] the character required of beneficiaries by the Constitution and Rules of the Central American Education Society.

[Dated.]

“A—— B——.”

No person shall remove from one place of instruction to another, or shall advance from one stage of instruction to another, without first obtaining a letter of dismissal and recommendation from his instructor or instructors; or unless notice of such intention has been previously given by him to the Directors of the Society, or of the branch with which he is connected, and their approbation has been obtained.

All, in every stage of their education, shall be regarded as standing upon their character; and shall be liable to have their patronage discontinued for improper conduct of any kind, at the discretion of the Directors of the Society; or if they are under the immediate care of a branch, at the discretion of the Board of such branch, with the concurrence of the Board of the Society. Instances of gross fraud or imposition, should they occur, may be exposed publicly at the discretion of the Directors in like manner.

If any young man under the patronage of this Society shall enter into the married state during his preparatory course for the ministry, his appropriations shall cease.

If any young man under the patronage of this Society shall neglect to report himself in the manner required, twice in succession, without giving any explanation of his omission, he shall be considered irregular; and on renewing his application for aid, he shall be liable to reëxamination and to a second admission on trial, at the discretion of the Directors.

Beneficiaries of other Education Societies applying for patronage to this Society must exhibit satisfactory evidence of previous good standing in the Societies with which they have been connected, and must furnish an Examining Committee of the Society with satisfactory evidence of their attainments and piety, and be recommended by them to its patronage before they can be received.

It is desired and expected of all under patronage that a valuable portion of every day will be employed, as there may be opportunity, in useful exercise and in productive labor, with a view of promoting vigorous health and of enabling them to do something toward defraying the expenses of their education.

Every beneficiary of this Society should regard it as an object of primary importance, to grow continually in a spirit of enlightened devotion and of fervent piety, deeply impressed with the sentiment that without this all his other acquisitions will be comparatively of little worth, either to himself or to the Church of Christ. It is therefore affectionately and earnestly recommended to every Beneficiary that he daily spend a portion of time in devout meditation, reading the Scriptures with a view to a personal and practical application, and in humble and fervent prayer: that the Sabbath will be faithfully employed in religious duties, social and secret, and that associations for prayer and religious improvement will be attended as circumstances shall permit.

OF APPROPRIATIONS.

The amount appropriated to young men under patronage shall be the least with which they can be carried forward, consistently with health and a thorough education, after making suitable efforts to assist themselves and receiving the aid of other public funds and of friends.

The annual amount of appropriations shall be ONE HUNDRED DOLLARS, payable in quarterly instalments of twenty-five dollars each.

No appropriations shall be made to young men, either by the Board of the parent Society or of a branch, except at the regular meetings; and then no appropriations shall be made unless young men have conformed to the rules in making out their returns. If an applicant has failed to make such returns in season for the meeting at which they should have been presented, they must be laid over to the next regular meeting; nor may an appropriation for the preceding period be allowed, if the failure of the applicant to forward his returns be owing to any fault of his, either in not making himself acquainted with the rules or in not taking the necessary pains to inform himself and to observe them.

A young man admitted on trial shall receive his *first* appropriation at the same meeting at which he is admitted. But the sum granted at one time shall not exceed the appropriation allowed for one quarter, unless on account of the distance of the applicant he has been authorized by the Board of the parent Society to make his returns and to receive his appropriations less frequently than once in a quarter.

NOTE.—By a rule of the Board of Directors, all appropriations to students are payable five years after their preparatory studies are closed: with interest from that time. But a discount of twelve per cent. per annum, will be allowed on all sums paid within five years, estimating from the day of payment to the expiration of said five years; that is, a debt of \$100 may be cancelled by the payment of \$40 at the close of the studies.

OFFICE OF THE SOCIETY.

The office of the Society is at No. 44 Bible House, Astor Place.
Entrance on Astor Place.

FORM OF A BEQUEST.

I bequeath to my executors the sum of dollars in trust, to pay over the same in after my decease, to the person who, when the same is payable, shall act as Treasurer of the Central American Education Society, located in the City of New-York, to be applied to the charitable uses and purposes of said Society, and under its direction.